



**AEDC**  
Anchorage Economic  
Development Corporation

2017 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
**{Cost of Living Index}**

measuring the cost of consumer goods and services.



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The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation collects cost of living data for Anchorage measuring the relative price of consumer goods and services. The Cost of Living Index (COLI) is measured nationally in 269 areas around the country; the average for all areas equals 100.

**Anchorage's overall index in 2017 was 128.4, or 128.4 percent of the national average.** Another way of looking at it would be to say that the cost of living in Anchorage is 28.4 percent higher than the average American city. The number is a slight improvement from 2016, when Anchorage's index of 130.2 ranked 20th nationally.

Each participant area's index is a percentage of the weighted average for all prices. This index does not measure the change of prices over time (inflation), but rather the relative cost of living compared to the national average.

## ANCHORAGE COST OF LIVING

# 128.4 » 21<sup>st</sup>

Anchorage is the 21<sup>st</sup> most expensive city of the 269 cities that participated in the 2017 COLI survey.

In 2017, the composite index for Anchorage went down to 128.4, 1.8 points lower than 2016. Since 2009, this index has moved between 124.6 and 132.4.

**#5**

**most expensive beef**



**#8**

**most expensive doctor's visit**



**#21**

**most expensive coffee**



**#22**

**most expensive vet visit**



**#42**

**most expensive average rent**



*Of the six component indices,  
2 have increased over the last year.*

### HEALTH CARE

144.3 >> 3<sup>rd</sup>

The cost of health care in Anchorage is the **third-highest in the nation** behind Juneau and Fairbanks.

A **full vision eye exam** in Anchorage is 100 percent higher than the national average, a **physician's office visit** is 68 percent higher and a **dentist visit** is 49.4 percent higher.

### GROCERY

126.1 >> 6<sup>th</sup>

This index decreased from 132.4 in 2016, and is tracking **above the average for the last 10 years**.

This is a highly volatile index, ranging from 113 to 142.5 since 2007. Components with the highest relative costs include **margarine** (81 percent higher than average), and **bananas** (52 percent higher than average).

### MISCELLANEOUS GOODS & SERVICES

123 >> 8<sup>th</sup>

This index **decreased** 2.8 points from 2016 to 2017.

**Anchorage now has the eighth-highest goods & services index** of the 269 communities surveyed.

One of the highest components in this category is the price of a **12-inch cheese pizza, which ranks 2nd highest in the nation**.

### HOUSING

147.2 >> 24<sup>th</sup>

The relative cost of housing in Anchorage has decreased every year since 2015. At 147.2, the **cost of housing in Anchorage ranks 24<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation**.

According to the Alaska Multiple Listing Service, the average sales price of a home in Anchorage was \$364,967 in 2017, **a 0.34 percent decrease over 2016**.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation 2017 Rental Market Survey showed average rents in Anchorage decreased from \$1,214 (2016) to \$1,200 (2017) for a 2 bedroom apartment with a local vacancy rate of 5.08 percent.

### TRANSPORTATION

112.4 >> 31<sup>st</sup>

The transportation index decreased slightly since 2016. It is now at 112.4.

Nearly 75 percent of this index is set by the cost of unleaded gasoline, which is 18.6 percent higher than the national average.

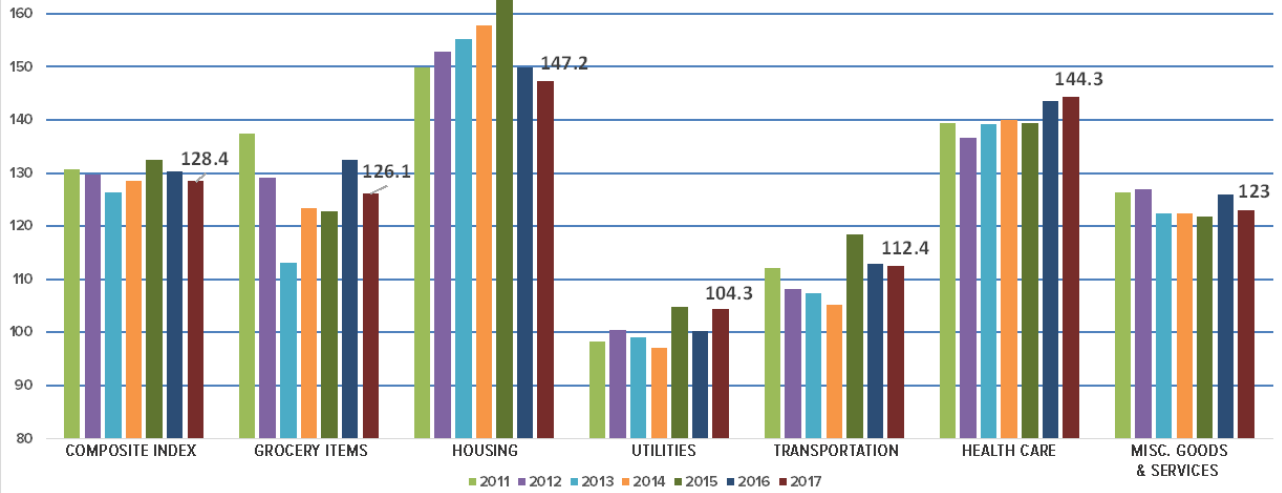
### UTILITIES

104.3 >> 95<sup>th</sup>

**This index increased by more than four points between 2016 and 2017.** Total energy costs in Anchorage (electricity and natural gas) are 33 percent higher than the national average.

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### ANCHORAGE ANNUAL COLI VALUES, 2011-2017



### 2017 ANCHORAGE COST OF LIVING INDEX

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	POINT CHG 2008-17	POINT CHG 2016-17
OVERALL INDEX	100%	125.5	124.6	128.3	130.6	129.6	126.2	128.5	132.4	130.2	128.4	2.9	-1.8
GROCERY ITEMS	13.47%	142.5	129.3	134.4	137.4	129.1	113	123.4	122.8	132.4	126.1	-16.4	-6.3
HOUSING	28.15%	136.4	137	142.5	149.8	152.8	155.1	157.8	163.9	149.9	147.2	10.8	-2.7
UTILITIES	9.90%	97.7	101.9	94.3	98.2	100.4	99	97	104.8	100.1	100.1	6.6	4.2
TRANSPORTATION	8.99%	106.9	118.2	122	112	108	107.3	105.1	118.3	112.9	112.4	5.5	-5
HEALTH CARE	4.57%	130.1	127.6	135.4	139.4	136.6	139.2	139.9	139.4	143.5	144.3	14.2	.8
MISC.	34.92%	123.7	120.5	124.7	126.3	126.9	122.3	122.4	121.8	125.8	123	-0.7	-2.8

### CITY COMPARISONS & ANCHORAGE RANKING

	COMPOSITE	GROCERY	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSP.	HEALTH CARE	MISC.
<b>ANCHORAGE, AK</b>	<b>128.4</b>	<b>126.1</b>	<b>147.2</b>	<b>104.3</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>144.3</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>COLI RANKING*</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>95<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
TUCSON, AZ	94.1	103	80	90.7	96.6	101.5	101.5
DENVER, CO	112	98.3	133.5	94	105.5	105.7	107.6
HONOLULU, HI	188.3	162.6	301.7	190.1	134.9	116.3	129.5
BOISE, ID	92.5	89.9	87.9	86.2	107.5	103.8	93.6
CHICAGO, IL	123.6	108.6	155.6	90.7	126.6	101.6	115.1
FT. WAYNE, IN	91.7	97.2	72.4	94.1	95.9	93.2	103.2
BOSTON, MA	148.2	106.2	207	141.8	110.8	135.8	130
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	104.9	107	104.8	91.6	107.9	104.9	107.3
BOZEMAN, MT	100.4	102.2	107.8	77.5	95.3	103.5	101
RENO, NV	106.8	100.4	106.8	85	112.9	110.7	113.3
FARGO, ND	100	108.6	95	87.1	98.9	115.2	100.2
PORTLAND, OR	129.3	115.6	179	78.4	106.3	107.5	117.9
HOUSTON, TX	98.2	87.1	104.8	111.2	97.4	91.5	94.7
SEATTLE, WA	149	127.1	194.2	123.8	133.1	124.6	135.5
LARAMIE, WY	95.6	109.7	81.9	109.8	94.6	99	96.9

\*MOST EXPENSIVE = 1<sup>ST</sup>, LEAST EXPENSIVE = 269<sup>TH</sup>